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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/573,961	03/29/2006	Didier Loup	TFR0209	7753
27305	7590	02/02/2010	EXAMINER	
HOWARD & HOWARD ATTORNEYS PLLC			DUONG, THO V	
450 West Fourth Street			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
Royal Oak, MI 48067			3744	
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			02/02/2010	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/573,961	LOUP ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Tho v. Duong	3744	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 October 2009.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) 4-10 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-3,11- 12 and 24-28 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) 13-23 is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10/15/09</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Claims 4-10 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 10/9/09.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 26 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

A broad range or limitation together with a narrow range or limitation that falls within the broad range or limitation (in the same claim) is considered indefinite, since the resulting claim does not clearly set forth the metes and bounds of the patent protection desired. See MPEP § 2173.05(c). Note the explanation given by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences in *Ex parte Wu*, 10 USPQ2d 2031, 2033 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1989), as to where broad language is followed by "such as" and then narrow language. The Board stated that this can render a claim indefinite by raising a question or doubt as to whether the feature introduced by such language is (a) merely exemplary of the remainder of the claim, and therefore not required, or (b) a required feature of the claims. Note also, for example, the decisions of *Ex parte Steigewald*, 131 USPQ 74 (Bd. App. 1961); *Ex parte Hall*, 83 USPQ 38 (Bd. App. 1948); and *Ex parte Hasche*, 86 USPQ 481 (Bd. App. 1949). In the present instance, claim 26 recites the broad recitation

“highly porous heat conducting foam”, and the claim also recites “particularly graphite” which is the narrower statement of the range/limitation.

Claims 26 is further rejected as can be best understood by the examiner in which the broad limitation is the metes and bounds of the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-3,11-12, 24-25 and 27-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Bureau et al. (US 2002/0088246A1). Bureau discloses (figure 1 and 5-10 and paragraphs 54 and 59) a heat exchanger comprising a plurality of modules stacked in a first direction, connected to an inlet pipe and to an outlet pipe for a first fluid and suitable for circulating the first fluid, characterized in that the modules comprise two series of distinct channels (650,651) suitable for receiving the first fluid and a second fluid; the second fluid can be conveyed by at least a third connecting pipe; the heat exchanger is capable of performing both a dynamic storage function and static

storage function. Beureu further discloses that each module is formed of three mutually plates (640-642); the modules are separated from each other in order to define intervals between them for the passage of an air flow in the third direction; the plates are formed in order to define passages (650,651) in each module for the circulation of the first and second heat transfer fluids in the second direction, respectively on either side of the intermediate plate (642), and having, in two end regions located on either side of the media region, openings for enabling the various modules to receive the first and second fluid; the plates being connected together to be sealed to the fluids around the openings, and at their periphery in each module; the passages for the circulation have a thickness of between 1 and 5 mm in the first direction. Regarding claim 27, Bereau discloses (figure 1) at least a first closed loop in which the heat exchanger is crossed by an air flow (arrow) and in which the first fluid can circulate so as to give up heat or cold to the air flow in the heat exchanger, and a second closed loop in which the second fluid can circulate between the heat exchanger and a tank (storage tank) so as to receive heat or cold from the first heat transfer fluid and the second loop can contain between 500ml to 1000 ml of decanol or tetradecane. Regarding the method of forming device (stamped) is not germane to the issue of the patentability of the device itself. “Even though product-by-process claims are limited by and defined by the process, determination of patentability is based on the product itself. The patentability of a product does not depend on its method of production. If the product in the product-by-process claim is the same as or obvious from a product of the prior art, the claim is unpatentable even though the prior product was made by a different process.” In re Thorpe, 777 F.2d 695, 698, 227 USPQ 964, 966 (Fed. Cir. 1985). In this case, the heat exchanger in the product by process claim is the same as or obvious from the heat exchanger of the prior art, the

claim is unpatentable even though the prior heat exchanger was made by a different process.

Regarding claims 24 and 25,

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 26 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bureau in view of Shibata et al. (JP 361006596A). Bureau substantially discloses all of applicant's claimed invention as discussed above except for the limitation that a highly porous foam is lined within a fluid flow channel. Shibatta discloses (figures 1-2) a heat exchanger that has a porous foam layer (14) lined within a heat transfer fluid channel for a purpose of increasing the heat transfer surface area of the fluid flow channel. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use Shibata's teaching in Bureau's device for a purpose of increasing the heat transfer surface area of the fluid flow channel.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 13-23 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Inoue et al. (US 6,935,417) discloses a solution heat exchanger.

Johansson (US 6,142,221) discloses a three circuit plate heat exchanger.

Bertilsson et al. (US 6,164,371) discloses a plate heat exchanger for three heat exchanging fluids.

Kawachi et al. (US 6,540,015) discloses a heat exchanger and method for manufacturing the same.

Shirota et al. (US 2002/0002837A1) discloses a vehicle air conditioning system.

Duerr et al. (US 6,343,485) discloses a cold storage unit.

Voss et al. (US 6,185,9570 discloses a combined evaporator.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tho v. Duong whose telephone number is 571-272-4793. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tyler J. Cheryl can be reached on 571-272-4834. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Tho v Duong/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3744